

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VANCOU 01242 230027Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: "MILITANTS" TRIUMPH AT B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOR  
CONVENTION

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY-TREASURER LEN GUY AND HIS SUPPORTING SLATE WERE ELECTED NOVEMBER 19 TO RUN THE B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOR FOR THE COMING YEAR. THE NEXT YEAR PROMISES TO SEE A CONTINUATION OF THE MILITANT TACTICS OF CONFRONTATION THAT HAVE TYPIFIED GUY'S APPROACH TO TRADE UNIONISM. THE LARGE UNIONS WHICH OPPOSED GUY SUFFERED A BITTER DEFEAT AND FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, HAVE HAD THEIR POWER IN THE FEDERATION CONSIDERABLY REDUCED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE B.C.F.L. CAME UNDER STRONG ATTACK AT THE 21ST ANNUAL CONVENTION HELD IN VANCOUVER NOVEMBER 15-19. THIS ATTACK WAS LEAD BY JACK MUNRO OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOODWORKERS OF AMERICA, AND SUPPORTED BY THREE OTHER LARGE UNIONS: CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, B.C. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES UNION, AND UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA. THESE UNIONS WERE SEEKING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO MODERATE THE TONE OF THE FEDERATION, WHICH UNDER GUY HAD BECOME QUITE SHRILL, TO FORM A CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH THE NDP, AND TO CURB TACIT SUPPORT OF NON-AFFILIATED UNIONS. THE IWA WAS PARTICULARLY INCENSED BY SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE FEDERATION TO THE NON-AFFILIATED

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PAGE 02 VANCOU 01242 230027Z

PULP, PAPER AND WOODWORKERS OF CANADAZ, AND THE USWA FELT THAT

INSUFFICIENT SUPPORT WAS GIVEN TO IT IN RECENT REPRESENTATION ELECTIONS LOST TO THE NON-AFFILIATED CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIAL, MECHANICAL, AND ALLIED WORKERS.

3. THE CONVENTION WAS MARKED BY BITTER INTERNAL DISPUTES, BUT IN THE END THE ANTI-GUY FORCES WERE UNABLE TO MUSTER SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR THEIR CANDIDATE, ART KUBE, CLC WESTERN REGION EDUCATION DIRECTOR, AND GUY WAS RE-ELECTED 534-418. IN ADDITION, ALL OF THE ANTI-GUY FACTIONS EXCEPT MUNRO LOST THEIR BIDS FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITIONS, INCLUDING THE FIRST WOMEN TO BE NOMINATED FOR SUCH AN OFFICE.

4. MR. GUY HAS INHERITED A DIVIDED FEDERATION. ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMS TO HAVE RECEIVED A "CLEAR MANDATE" FOR HIS POLICIES, HE CANNOT CONTINUE TO OFFEND THE LARGER UNIONS WITHOUT PRECIPITATING THE BREAKUP OF THE FEDERATION. MR. MUNRO PLEDGED THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES SO THAT THE NEXT CONVENTION DELEGATE APPORTIONMENT WOULD MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT UNION MEMBERSHIP. IT PRESENTLY STRONGLY FAVORS THE SMALLER UNIONS.

5. AN INDICATION OF THE POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF THE FEDERATION LEADERSHIP CAME ON THE VOTING ON A RESOLUTION CALLING ON JUSTICE MINISTER BASFORD TO REFUSE TO SIGN THE PELTIER EXTRADITION PAPERS. THE RESOLUTION BEGAN "THE EXTRADITION HEARINGS OF....PELTIER WILL RESULT IN HIS CERTAIN DEATH IF THIS EXTRADITION GOES THROUGH". AFTER A BITTER DEBATE, FEDERATION PRESIDENT JOHNSTON BROKE WHAT HE DECLARED A TIE ON A VOICE VOTE BY VOTING IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION.  
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